WHIRRAKEE

October 2016 Vol. 37 No. 9

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MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE BENDIGO FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB

Bendigo Field Naturalists Club Inc.
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Office Bearers for 2016 - 2017

President	John McCallum	
Vice President	Simon Hay	0410 424 686
Secretary/Public Officer	Matt Comer	0409 162 627
Treasurer	Ben Goonan	info@bendigofieldnaturalists.asn.au

Positions delegated by the Committee

Minute Secretary	general meetings – *vacant*	
Excursion sub-committee	**John Lindner**, Simon Hay, Richard Goonan	**5448 3406**
Syllabus organiser	Ben Goonan	info@bendigofieldnaturalists.asn.au
Librarian	Jess Milroy	
Garden sub-committee	Kerrie Norris, Jess Milroy, Karen Thomas	
Observations coordinator	Richard Goonan	
Supper coordinators	Alistair White, Janet Justin	
Hall management sub-committee	**Maurie Lewis**, Glenise Moors, Ben Goonan	**0407427179**
Whirrakee sub-committee	Sabine Wilkens, Alistair White, John McCallum, Ben Goonan	
Whirrakee contact/editor	Sabine Wilkens e-mail: s.wilkens@latrobe.edu.au	5443 2797
Whirrakee mailing coordinator	Jenny Shield	
Website sub-committee	Ben Goonan, **John McCallum**	**54439347**
Bullying and Harassment Officer	Simon Hay	0410 424 686

Membership of the Bendigo Field Naturalists Club is open to all those interested in Natural History. The subscription rates are: Single $40; Family $50; Concession: Single $35; Family $40. *Whirrakee* subscription only is $40.

General meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month. The venue for General meetings is the Golden Square Hall, Old High Street, Golden Square. The meeting starts with members sharing their recent natural history observations. The invited speaker starts at 8:00pm and meetings conclude with supper. The Annual Meeting is held in September.

Committee meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month at 5:30pm. Members of the Committee are the Office Bearer listed above and the following members: Richard Goonan, Karen Thomas, Jess Milroy, Alistair White. *There are two vacancies for committee members*

Excursions are conducted regularly and are advertised on the diary page of the *Whirrakee*. The assembly point for excursions is the Golden Square Hall, unless otherwise specified. Several interclub field naturalist campouts are held every year.

The Bendigo Field Naturalists Club is actively involved in local conservation issues. An **indigenous garden** has been established around the Golden Square Hall. Working bees are advertised on the *Whirrakee* diary page.

Bird Observing: Club members conduct regular bird surveys. Please contact Anne Bridley 5442 6188 or Glenise Moors 5439 6254 for details. Special bird observations should be reported to Anne Bridley 5442 6188. To propose bird observing excursions please contact Kerrie Norris 5447 8017.

WHIRRAKEE

Monthly Newsletter of the Bendigo Field Naturalist Club
Vol. 37, No. 9, October 2016
Whirrakee takes its name from the Whirrakee Wattle (*Acacia williamsonii*), which is virtually endemic to the Bendigo region

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Authors are responsible for the accuracy of the information they use and also for any opinions expressed in their articles. Contributions should be posted or e-mailed to the editor at least two days prior to the last Wednesday of the month. They will be included as soon as possible after they are received, although space restrictions occasionally require shortening of articles or holding them over till the following edition of *Whirrakee*.
Articles in *Whirrakee* may be reproduced, but permission should be obtained from the Bendigo Field Naturalists Club, and acknowledgment should be given to the author and the Club. Some back issues are still available on request.

Editor's Note
We have a (new) president. While the committee and Alistair as vice president allowed a smooth running of the club last year (the annual report did not fit this month, but will appear soon), we now have the 'normal' structure back in place with John McCallum agreeing to the top job. Thanks John, for taking this on; hopefully the job will be rewarding. The committee is still short of a couple of members, so here is your chance to get involved at a safe entry level (see also page 9). If you are interested, contact any of the committee members or office bearers to find out more. Learning from others is one huge benefit in taking part in club activities, (for example joining the Saturday walks). I was hugely impressed with the very extensive list of plants and birds found at the last club excursion to Knowsley Forest (see page 8). What immense knowledge amongst only five members... and the great thing is, that all members are happy to share this knowledge.
Lastly, apologies for any offence caused by the photos on page 5..... Their status is not 'their fault' so I thought they could have a showing as well.

Front page photograph:
In early September, Karen Thomas went to Strathfieldsaye Primary School, to talk to students in Grade 1 about why our wildlife do not make good pets. As the photos show, the children were very excited about seeing the club's mammal skins.

Short Notices

BFNC Weekly Naturalist Walks – Nature Knowledge Exchange: Saturday 9am-12pm
Club members and visitors (families and students) are invited to join our Weekly Naturalist Walks program running throughout 2016. Walks will visit a range of local areas and provide participants with an excellent introduction to natural history and forest ecology, including birds/plants/fungi/insects, recording observations, and learning/developing field skills. New members and visitors are welcome. Meet at the **Golden Square Hall from 8:50am to register, depart 9:10am. Conclude approximately 12:00pm**. Please carry with you some water and a light snack, and wear clothing suitable for the prevailing conditions. Walks will be short and of easy to moderate difficulty, suitable for anyone with a basic level of fitness.
To find out more, call **Richard** (0423418815) or email **richard.goonan@optusnet.com.au** or check the club's website for the latest updates www.bendigofieldnaturalists.asn.au
Planned destinations for the next few weeks:
October 1 – One Tree Hill,
October 8 – Wildflower Drive
October 15 – Whipstick ,
October 22 – One Tree Hill, Cootamundra removal activity
October 29 – Wellsford,
November 5 – Mandurang;
November 12 – Axedale.

Club Excursions until the end of the year
Currently three more excursions are planned for the remainder of 2016. They are:
Sunday October 16th: Heathlands and Wildflowers – Wellsford, Crosbie NCR, One Eye Forest. For details see page 10.

Sunday November 13th: Kamarooka Daisy Tour Revisited. For details, see page 10.

Details about the December excursion will appear in the next *Whirrakee*, but for now, put the date in your diary…
Sunday December 4th: Spring Soak and Rock Pool Wetlands of Kooyoora

Naturalist Workshops
Throughout the year, the Club has been running a series of Naturalist Workshops specifically designed to develop participants' proficiency across a broad range of field based naturalist skills and knowledge. They are designed to cater for a wide range of abilities and use a participatory/interactive model, where participants learn from one another in a friendly and welcoming environment.
Workshop 12: Aquatic macroinvertebrates – sampling, identification and their use in water quality monitoring
Presenter: Ben Goonan
Date: 26 October 2016
Time: 7:00pm, Golden Square Hall
RSVP: Please register your interest via info@bendigofieldnaturalists.asn.au or by post to PO Box 396 Bendigo VIC 3552.
What to bring: Enthusiasm! and images if you have any, your field guides and notes, paper and pen, your laptop or phone to use apps, etc. A magnifier will be essential. A good quality hand lens is ideal. We will have a few dissecting microscopes available for use on the night (if you have one, bring it along).
More information:
www.bendigofieldnaturalists.asn.au or info@bendigofieldnaturalists.asn.au

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Brown Goshawk or Collared Sparrowhawk?
The bird on the front page of the July *Whirrakee* was tentatively identified by the photographer Simon Smith as a Brown Goshawk, but several members believe it was a Collared Sparrowhawk (largely due to the square tail). Upon questioning Simon about his identification, he told me he had consulted Tim Dunlop (bird guide and bird book author) who had said '"To me this looks like a Brown Goshawk. We can't see the tail features or the toe, however one way to distinguish Goshawk and Sparrowhawk is by their distinct facial features. Generally speaking Sparrowhawk "stare" (SS) while Goshawk "glare" (GG). This bird seems to have an "eyebrow" tilted downwards, giving it the appearance of frowning/glaring, so it's a Brown Goshawk".
…continued on page 6

Spring flowers and fungi from around Bendigo

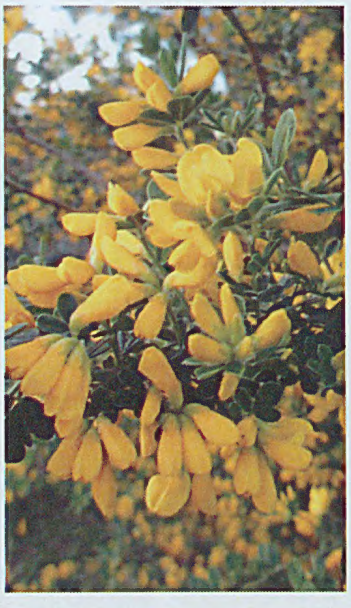
Right: Honey-pots (*Acrotriche serrulata*) The flowers were full of nectar and sampled by walkers during a Saturday excursion to Salomon Gully Flora Reserve… and found to be delicious. (Photo taken by Glenise Moors)

Below left: Unidentified fungi in Richard Goonan's front yard at Sedgwick (also photographed by Glenise Moors)

Yam Daisies often have beetle visitors

Left: At Diamond Hill, *Calytrix tetragona* Common Fringe Myrtle was flowering well at the end of September; also Ferny Cotula (*Cotula bipinnata*) is having a good season with all the rain we have had (photos by SW).

Let's talk about weeds... any international visitor to Bendigo would be excused for being enraptured with this view – masses of white, orange and yellow flowers. I also was enchanted by the sheer extent of colour in this paddock (Bellevue Road, Quarry Hill). What does it matter that the colour comes from Onion weed (white), Sparaxis (or Cape Tulip?) (orange) and Cape Weed (yellow). You have to give it to these plants, they are prolific, hardy survivors, but each flower is also intrinsically beautiful. Unfortunately, despite their good looks, they attract bad feelings because they grow in unwanted places. Below are a few more beautiful, yet despised species. Is your 'favourite' weed amongst them? (All photos by SW from Quarry Hill/Flora Hill area, Sept. 25)



Local birds

Rosalind Park, 17th September
Red-rumped parrot couple feeding on winter poa seeds? They allowed me (SW) to approach to almost one meter.

Below: Thornbills can be difficult to photograph, so Simon Smith was pleased with this shot of a Buff-rumped Thornbill on One Tree Hill.

Also, Red-kneed Dotterels are often a little wary, so Simon was surprised when one of them approached quite closely when he was at Crusoe Reservoir at the end of August

...continued from page 3

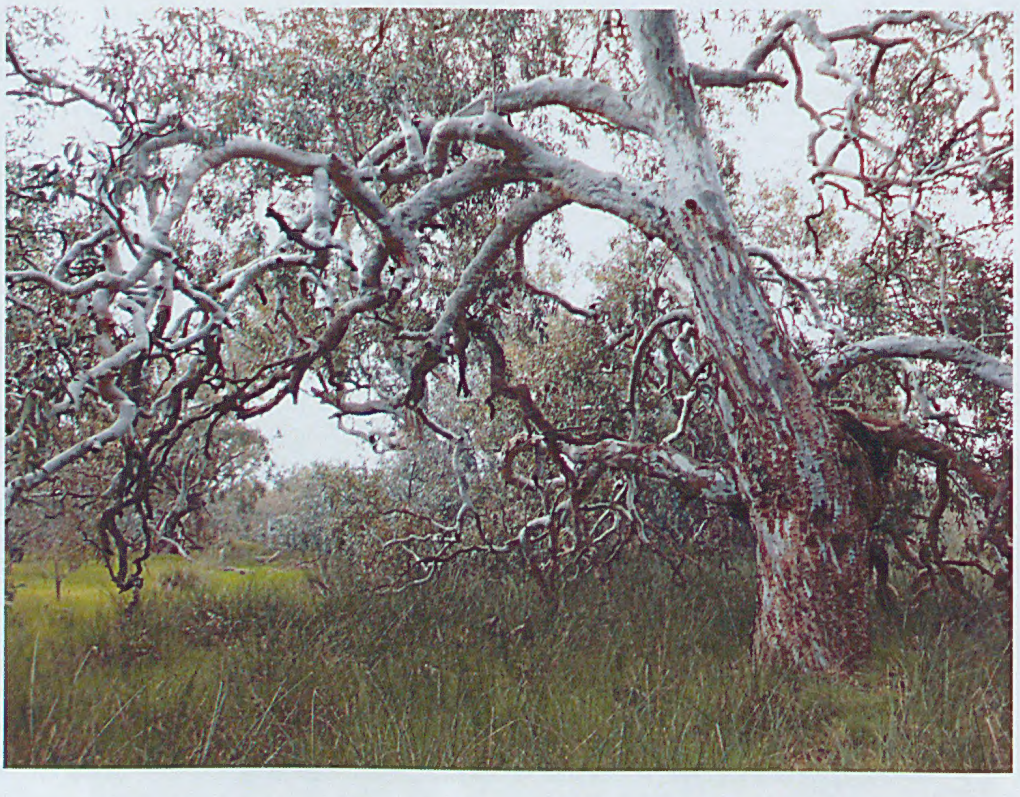
"The size of the bird is similar to the bird it's eating, which I assume is a Crested Pigeon. This would make it a male Brown Goshawk - female Goshawk are much bigger."
Simon thinks that in the photo in (the July) *Whirrakee,* the end of the tail was obscured by pigeon feathers, so it's a little difficult to say that the bird has a square tail. Here is another (less good) photo of the bird for those interested in this bird's true identity.

Excursion to Tang Tang via Bendigo Creek – 21st August
(Photos taken by Marian Hill)

Above: Ben Goonan, the excursion leader with the assembled company – young and old.

It looks cold…in fact the Bearded Dragon (*Amphibolurus barbatus*) on the left seemed to have been so cold, people thought it was dead. When gently touched with a stick, it did move – however its chances of warming up on that day were slim.

Below: a more than magnificent River Redgum. What a fantastic habitat tree…



Excursion Report from Knowsley State Forest – 18th September
by Anne Bridley

Five field nats had a fascinating day in the Knowsley forest in spite of a wet morning. Fungi were still plentiful, moths were flying in the rain, frogs were calling and when the rain stopped, we found some good patches of birds. There were many small plants to puzzle over. Highlights included large patches of Narrow-leaf Bitter-pea, and a Creeping Mistletoe (with larvae on it) growing on a Grey Box instead of its usual host (River Red Gum). There was a field of Golden Moths and buttercups complete with slime mould, rock gardens with ferns, orchids and lilies, a stand of very large Yellow Box with Running Postman flowering nearby. We reluctantly left after 4 PM, having found much to interest us.

Fungi included Dung Buttons, Horse Dropping Fungus (*Pisolithus), Tremella, Crepidotus, Cortinarius,* Boletes, Vermillion Grisette (*Amanita xanthocephala*), other *Amanita,* Hairy Curtain Crust (*Stereum hirsutum*), *Hexagonia*, puff balls, Earth Ball (*Scleroderma*).

Flora and Fauna Lists for 10 /9/16 and 18/9/16

Wedge-tailed Eagle	Common Bronzewing
Galah	Long-billed Corella
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	Musk Lorikeet
Little Lorikeet	Crimson Rosella
Eastern Rosella	Red-rumped Parrot
Pallid Cuckoo	White-throated Treecreeper
Brown Treecreeper	Spotted Pardalote
Striated Pardalote	Speckled Warbler
Weebill	Western Gerygone
Buff-rumped Thornbill	Yellow Thornbill
Red Wattlebird	Noisy Miner
White-eared Honeyeater	Fuscous Honeyeater
Jacky Winter	Red-capped Robin
Flame Robin	Eastern Yellow Robin
Varied Sittella	Rufous Whistler
Grey Shrike-thrush	Magpie-lark
Grey Fantail	Willie Wagtail
Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	
Olive-backed Oriole	Dusky Woodswallow
Australian Magpie	Grey Currawong
Australian Raven	Little Raven
White-winged Chough	Mistletoebird

Eastern Grey Kangaroo
Banjo Frog
Spotted Marsh Frog

Acacia acinacea	Gold-dust Wattle
Acacia ausfeldii	Ausfeld's Wattle
Acacia genistifolia	Spreading Wattle
Acacia pycnantha	Golden Wattle
Acaena sp	Sheep's Burr
Acrotriche serrulata	Honeypots
Allocasuarina verticillata	Drooping Sheoak
Arthropodium strictum	Chocolate Lily
Astroloma humifusum	Cranberry Heath
Brachyloma daphnoides	Daphne Heath
Brunonia australis	Blue Pincushion
Bulbine bulbosa	Bulbine Lily
Bursaria spinosa	Sweet Bursaria
Caladenia carnea?	Pink Fingers
Calochilus robertsonii	Purplish Beard-orchid
Cassinia arcuata	Drooping Cassinia
Cheilanthes austrotenuifolia	Rock fern
Cotula sp	
Crassula sp	
Cyanicula caerulea	Blue Caladenia
Daucus glochidiatus	Austral Carrot
Daviesia leptophylla	Narrow-leaf Bitter-pea
Dianella admixta	Black-anther Flax-lily
Diuris pardina	Leopard Orchid
Diuris sp	Golden Moths
Drosea glanduligera	Scarlet Sundew
Drosera peltata	Tall Sundew
Einadia hastata	Saloop
Einadia nutans	Nodding Saltbush
Eucalyptus leucoxylon	Yellow Gum
Eucalyptus melliodora	Yellow Box
Eucalyptus microcarpa	Grey Box
Eucalyptus polyanthemos	Red Box
Geranium spp	Geraniums
Glossodia major	Waxlip Orchid
Glycine latrobeana	Clover Glycine
Goodenia sp	
Hibbertia exutiacies	Tangled Guinea-flower
Hydrocotyle axiflora	Stinking Pennywort
Kennedia prostatra	Running Postman
Lisssanthe strigosa	Peach Heath
Lomandra filiformis	Mat-rush
L. multiflora	Many-flowered Mat-rush

Microseris sp. 3 Yam Daisy
Microtis sp Onion Orchid
Millotia tenuifolia Soft Millotia
Muellerina eucalyptoides Creeping Mistletoe
Ozothamnus obcordatus Grey Everlasting
Pelargonium rodneyanum Magenta Storksbill
Pelargonium sp Stork's-bill
Pimelea humilis Common Rice-flower
Pterostylis sp
Ranunculus spp Buttercups
Senecio quadridentatus Cotton Fireweed
Thelymitra sp Sun Orchid
Thysanotus patersonii Twining Fringe Lily
Wahlenbergia sp Bluebell
Wurmbea dioica Early Nancy
Xerochrysum viscosum Sticky Everlasting

Committee Notes, 21st September 2016
New and on-going business included the following items.

1. Membership renewals are now due. The committee encourages all members to renew their membership as soon as possible. Thank you to those who have already done this.
2. Following the AGM, two general committee positions remains un-filled. Member interested in taking on a position are invited to contact the committee.
3. Appointed positions of responsibility have been confirmed. Thank you to all members who have taken on a role. If anyone would like to contribute to any of the sub-committees don't hesitate to contact the committee or sub-committee members, a minute secretary (general meetings) and possibly extra help on the hall management sub-committee, are still needed.
4. Name badges for all club members are now available at general meetings. Please return your badge to the box as you leave the meeting.
5. Welcome to Michael Barkla, Catriona Woods, and Robin Holman, whose nominations for membership were accepted.
6. A new 'Projects' account has been established: This was an action from the August meeting as part of adopting the new finance policy. It is aimed to provide funding for projects proposed by members. A new term deposit has also been established from which the interest will be paid into the projects account.
7. The committee voted to enter into a new hall management agreement with the City of Greater Bendigo for a period of three years. This will now be formalised with the City. It will mean changes to some aspects of our responsibilities as hall managers. The hall management sub-committee will also establish a new website specifically to promote the hall to potential users.
8. To continue the process of updating and adding new titles to the club library, Jess will be asking for recommendations that members may find valuable/suitable, at the next general meeting.

Observations, September general meeting
Summarised by Jenny Shield

Jess Milroy 11 September 2016
Lightning Hill and Whitehorse Hill: Yam Daisies. Lovely!
Anne Bridley 1 September 2016
Lake Eppalock: Great views of White-bellied Sea-Eagle which was flying back and forward.
Anne Bridley 15 September 2016
Crusoe: A Caspian Tern. It had the big red bill, and a black cap which didn't extend down the nape of the neck. They are spectacular when they dive into the water.
Keith Graham via Anne Bridley 8 August 2016
Arnold West: Some changes in this area.

- There is a new Wedge-tailed Eagle's nest which is 5 or 6 m up in a tree on a little ridge, which makes 6 nests within 4 or 5 km of Arnold West. The bird has been on the nest. Wedgie's nests are getting more common in the area.
- Diamond Firetails are back around the house this week. The last few months, they have been along the Loddon.

- There have been no Noisy Miners at Keith's place in 60 years, but they are 2 km away.
- White-winged Choughs have spread along the Loddon.

Congratulations to John Robinson

Those members who attended the 2015 December meeting would have heard about John Robinson's work on Square-tailed Kites. John's work has now been published – a wonderful achievement. Here are the details:

John L. Robinson, Barrie R. Cooper and Donald C. Franklin (2016). Shadows of change: Square-tailed Kites *Lophoictinia isura* nesting in the Bendigo area of Victoria. *Corella* 40(3): 61-68.

Please contact John Robinson if you are interested in a copy of the paper.

Did you know…

The world of lichens has been shaken up. There is a good chance that lichens are actually a symbiosis of THREE partners, rather than just two, as previously thought. To find out about this discovery, read the article "Lichens may be a symbiosis of three organisms; a new Order of fungus named" https://theconversation.com/lichens-may-be-a-symbiosis-of-three-organisms-a-new-order-of-fungus-named-63334

October Excursion: Heathlands and Wildflowers – Wellsford, Crosbie NCR, One Eye Forest.

Date: **Sunday October 16th**

Leader: Richard Goonan

Meet: Behind Epsom BP Service Station, along Taylor St, opposite DELWP Offices. To reduce unnecessary travel time, please make your own way to Epsom (fuel and toilets available there)

Time: Registration 8:45, departure 9:00am.

Return: Finish at One Eye Forest 4:30/5:00pm (time permitting, otherwise finish at Crosbie NCR), return to Bendigo via own route from Heathcote (approx. 30minutes). If a half day option is preferred, you can return to Bendigo after lunch at the Campaspe River.

Description: Enjoy a day exploring Heathy Woodland/Forest EVCs looking at a diversity of forest types, wildflowers and birds. Try out the new VicFlora App, snap some photos for the Club's Bowerbird project, and make use of a range of other resources available on the day.

Distance: Approx. 80km driving, suitable for 2wd vehicles. Lunch approx. 12:00pm at Campaspe River.

Equipment: Bring all the usual gear: binoculars, telescope, tripod, sound recorder, camera, note book and pen, smart phone, field guides, field press, maps, toilet paper, ground sheet, hat/sunscreen, wet weather gear, change of clothes, snacks, lunch and plenty of water.

Contact/Information: Richard Goonan 0423418815

November Excursion: Kamarooka Daisy Tour Revisited.

Date **Sunday November 13th**

Leaders: Richard Goonan, Matt Comer, Ben Goonan

Meet: Main Street Huntly, Opposite NCCMA Office.

Time: Registration 8:45am, Depart 9:00am

Return: Via the Whipstick area to Eaglehawk, aiming to return to Club rooms approx. 5:00pm. If a half day option is preferred, you can return any time via Tennyson Rd.

Description: Enjoy a tour through Grassy Woodlands, Mallee, and Box-Ironbark Forest areas identifying a range of local 'daisy' (Asteraceae) species with the Club's expert botanists Ben Goonan and Matt Comer. At least 20 species of 'daisy' can be found through the Kamarooka/Whipstick areas at this time of year, the excursion will follow a route described by Graham Hill and conducted as an excursion many years ago.

Distance: Approx. 80km driving (suitability for 2wd to be advised), lunch approx. 12:30pm in the Kamarooka.

Equipment: Bring all the usual gear…

Information: Richard Goonan 0423418815

Diary

All Club meetings are held at the Golden Square Hall, Old High St Golden Square, unless otherwise indicated.

Wednesday, 12th October 7.30pm
John Lindner, longstanding BFNC member will talk about 'The natural regions of Western Australia' (3 months in WA, 2014). This talk will attempt to give an overview of the 8 bio-geographic regions of the south and far west of WA, which has about 20 such regions. John's invaluable guide book was "Plant Life of Western Australia" by John Beard (1990). This is similar to "Native Tree and Shrubs of South-eastern Australia" by Leon Costermans (1981), which many people will know. While the former is rather more complex, it provides a pathway to understanding the geology, soils, landforms and vegetation of this vast state. All are welcome.

Excursions
Saturday: Weekly Naturalist Walks
Non-members welcome, family friendly
Weekly from 8:50am to 12pm (no cost)
Meet at Golden Square Hall
Contact Richard (0423418815)
Email richard.goonan@oprtusnet.com.au
For more details and destinations, see page 3

October Excursion: Heathlands and Wildflowers – Wellsford, Crosbie NCR, One Eye Forest.
Date: **Sunday October 16th**
Leader: Richard Goonan
For details, see page 10.

November Excursion: Kamarooka Daisy Tour Revisited. Date **Sunday November 13**
Leaders: Richard Goonan, Matt Comer, Ben Goonan. For details, see page 10.

December Excursion: Spring Soak and Rock Pool Wetlands of Kooyoora
Date: **Sunday December 4**
Leaders: Richard Goonan, Ben Goonan
For details, see November *Whirrakee*

BFNC Workshop, 26th October 7.00pm
Workshop 12: Aquatic macroinvertebrates sampling, identification and their use in water quality monitoring
Presenter: Ben Goonan
See page 3 for more details

SEANA Camp 2017 – first notice
The 2017 camp will be held over the extended weekend of 17-20 March, based in Sale in Central Gippsland.

Matt Comer and Sabine Wilkens have information about accommodation options (including group accommodation package), the extensive and interesting program, as well as the registration form.
Forms and payment are due by Friday 20 January 2017

Family Nature Club
The Nature Club activities are continuing in 2016, so look out for announcements or check out their website. **Registration:**
Bendigonatureclub@gmail.com or 5443-1326
http://bendigofamilynatureclub.blogspot.com.au

Wildlife Rescue & Information Network Inc.
W.R.I.N. is an organisation dedicated to the care of orphaned, sick or injured native animals. It is fully endorsed by the Dept of Sustainability and Environment.
Please call our Emergency Number for Help for Fauna in Need. Phone: 0419 356433.
WRIN meetings held on the 1st Saturday of February, April, June, August, October and December at 1pm the Golden Square Hall

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Bendigo Native Plant Group meeting.
All interested people are welcome to come along. Meeting starts at 7:30pm on the third Tuesday of the month, Golden Square Hall.
The next meeting is on the 18th October.